

Central Intelligence Agency

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Washington, D.C. 20505

19 APR 1984

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The Honorable Jack Brooks, Chairman
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to respond to your request for the views of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on H.R. 5164. This legislation represents a determined bipartisan effort to craft legislation which will provide the CIA with needed, albeit partial, relief from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), while at the same time, accommodating the concerns of several public interest groups. The Central Intelligence Agency supports this legislation.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the CIA has been seeking legislative relief from the Freedom of Information Act for several years. This is because after the 1974 amendments to the FOIA were enacted it became clear that the Agency was faced with unique problems in its efforts to comply with the Act. It has also become clear that the public's interest is not being served when requesters have to wait two to three years to receive a final response to their FOIA requests. Fortunately, this situation resulted in a recognition by all concerned that every effort should be made to seek a legislative solution which would serve the best interests of both the Agency and the public. H.R. 5164, the product of many hours of discussion and negotiation, accomplishes this purpose in a manner acceptable to the CIA.

I look forward to working with you and the other Members of the Committee in securing passage of this Bill this session.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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